



Working For You

An Annual Report from

U.S. Representative Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15)

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Now that my first year as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives has drawn to a close, I wanted to give you a summary of the activities during the first half of the 111th Congress. This has been an exciting time to be a part of the legislative body that governs our country. We have seen unprecedented economic conditions and worked vigorously toward recovery and reinvestment.

I will begin with a recap of some of the important pieces of legislation that were passed in the House this year before discussing in greater detail bills and amendments that I introduced as part of my legislative agenda to best represent my constituents in Ohio's 15th Congressional District.

Significant Legislation Enacted in 2009:

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT, to jumpstart our economy, create and save 3.5 million jobs, give 95% of American workers a tax cut, and begin to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure, with unprecedented accountability. (Signed into Law)

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS, providing tough new protections for consumers—including banning unfair rate increases, abusive fees, and penalties—and strengthening enforcement. (Signed into Law)

I worked for credit card reform on the *Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights* which requires 45-day notice of rate increases, prohibits double-cycle interest billing, enacts special rules for promotional rate and deferred-interest balances and authorizes opt-outs for over-the-limit transactions. When the big banks and credit card companies started hiking their rates and payments in anticipation of this legislation, I called them out and voted to speed up the enactment date to stop the profit-driven actions of these credit giants.

THE WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes. (Passed by House)

As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I am proud to be part of the historic sweeping reforms for consumer protection and financial stability enacted this year. Several measures in this legislation are directly relevant to central Ohio. Hardworking families will be protected from deceptive financial practices such as predatory mortgage lending, corporate banking conglomerates like AIG will no longer be deemed "too big to fail" thus dismantled systematically without taxpayer bailouts, shareholders can provide a non-binding vote on executive compensation, investors will be better protected against fraudulent activity like the Madoff Ponzi scheme, and derivative investments such as futures, options and swaps will finally be regulated. These comprehensive oversight measures will help ensure that Main Street no longer pays the price for Wall Street's questionable practices.

The Act creates the *Consumer Financial Protection Agency*, an independent watchdog (like the US Food and Drug Administration) that would set standards for financial products, ban deceptive tactics,

consolidate oversight entities, simplify lending disclosures outlining risk and cost, encourage consumer education, strengthens soundness requirements and for the first time regulates non-banking lenders such as mortgage brokers and payday lenders.

Furthermore, several of my proposals were adopted into the Act, including the creation of an *Investor Advisory Committee* within the SEC; a requirement that all institutional investors, like hedge funds, must disclose how they vote on executive compensation; disallowing the exemption for credit rating agencies from making untrue or misleading statements; and mandating stricter notification requirements for investors regarding their dividend checks.

THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT, landmark legislation passed in the House that lowers costs for consumers, preserves and provides choice of doctors and plans, includes a public option, ensures coverage cannot be delayed or denied, expands access to affordable health care coverage for millions of Americans, cuts long-term health care costs and reduces the deficit by billions of dollars over the first ten years. (Passed by House)

In Ohio's 15th Congressional District, this bill would improve employer-based coverage for 453,000 residents, provide credits to help 165,000 households pay for coverage, improve Medicare for 77,000 people, closes the Medicare donut hole for 6,100 seniors, help 15,900 small businesses obtain affordable coverage, give cost-reducing tax credits to another 13,300, provide coverage for 41,000 currently uninsured citizens, and reduce uncompensated health care costs to hospitals and providers by \$220 million dollars.

I am proud to say the House bill includes specific additions that my constituents requested such as portability and the ability to sell insurance across state lines plus the option to retain young adults up to age 27 on their parents' policies.

The Senate also passed its version of health care reform. The bills must be reconciled before reaching the President's desk.

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, provides cost-effective health coverage for 4 million more children and preserves coverage for 7 million children already enrolled. (Signed into Law)

CASH FOR CLUNKERS, jump-starting the U.S. auto industry, providing consumers with up to \$4,500 to trade in an old vehicle for one with higher fuel efficiency – spurring the sale of 700,000 vehicles. (Signed into Law)

STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO, restoring 1990s law that turned record deficits into surpluses, by forcing tough choices; Congress must offset new policies that reduce revenues or expand entitlements. (Passed by House)

WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT, boosting the economy and creating jobs with unemployment benefits for Americans hit by the recession, an expanded 1st-time homebuyer tax credit, and tax relief for struggling small businesses—expanded to all struggling U.S. businesses. (Signed into Law)

JOBS ON MAIN STREET ACT, would create and save jobs with targeted investments to boost small business, rebuild highways and transit, and to hire and retain teachers, police, and firefighters; paid for by redirecting TARP funds from Wall Street to Main Street; with emergency aid for the unemployed. (Passed by House)

STUDENT AID & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT, would make the largest investment in college aid in history – increasing Pell Grants and keeping student loan interest rates low– while reducing the federal deficit. (Passed by House)

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT, building on the President’s initiative to stem the foreclosure crisis, with significant incentives to lenders, servicers, and homeowners to modify loans. (Signed into Law)

FOOD SAFETY, to fundamentally change the way we protect our food supply; close gaps exposed by recent food-borne illness outbreaks; give the FDA new authorities. (Passed by House)

FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO, granting the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products, the #1 cause of preventable U.S. death. (Signed into Law)

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY & SECURITY ACT, historic legislation to create millions of jobs; reduce dependence on foreign oil; reduce climate change pollution; keep costs low for Americans. (Passed by House)

This bill would reduce nationwide greenhouse gas emissions 17% by 2020 and 83% by 2050 through a program which would allow companies to buy and sell emission credits. The bill would also require utilities to generate an increasing amount of power from renewable sources, while at the same time making significant investments in clean energy technologies and efficiencies.

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT, the most significant conservation bill in 15 years, strengthening tourism and rural economies with more than 2 million new acres of wilderness and parks. (Signed into Law)

BUDGET BLUEPRINT, creating jobs with investments in health care, clean energy and education; cutting taxes for most Americans by \$1.5 trillion; cutting Bush deficit by more than half by 2013. (Action Completed)

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT & RECOVERY ACT, providing tools to prosecute mortgage scams and corporate fraud that contributed to the financial crisis; creating an outside commission to examine its causes. (Signed into Law)

DEFENSE PROCUREMENT REFORM, cracking down on Pentagon waste and cost overruns. (Signed into Law)

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT, restoring the rights of women and other workers to challenge unfair pay—to help close the wage gap where women earn 78 cents for every \$1 a man earns in America. (Signed into Law)

STRONGER TARP OVERSIGHT, expanding authority of TARP Special Inspector General. (Signed into Law)

FY 2009 SUPPLEMENTAL, meeting our troops' needs to wind down the Iraq war, change strategy in Afghanistan; make retroactive stop loss payments to 185,000+ service members. (Signed into Law)

VETERANS HEALTH CARE BUDGET REFORM & TRANSPARENCY ACT, authorizing Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance to ensure reliable and timely funding. (Signed into Law)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION to provide 3.4% pay raise for troops, strengthen military readiness, expand support for military families, and focus strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iraq redeployment. (Signed into Law)

Legislation I have introduced as your Representative:

H.R. 3232 Provide a Return on Financial Investment for the Taxpayer Act (PROFIT Act)

This bill would require all TARP warrants to be auctioned on an open, public and transparent exchange, rather than negotiated privately between the U.S. Treasury and banks. Under the TARP, banks which received equity injections were required to give the federal government warrants for stock. The warrants were the only opportunity for the American taxpayer to share in the upside of its investment. (Currently in Committee)

H.R. 3318 Investor Advisory Committee Act of 2009

This bill would establish a permanent Investor Advisory Committee within the Securities and Exchange Commission to give investors a greater voice in the SEC's work. (Became part of HR 4173, Passed by House)

H.R. 3351 Proxy Voting Transparency Act

This bill would require all institutional investors to disclose how it voted its proxy votes. (A part was adopted into HR 4173, Passed by House)

H.R. 3421 Medical Debt Relief Act

This bill would prohibit credit reporting agencies from using paid off medical debt collections to assess a consumer's credit rating. Medical debt is unique. Americans don't choose when accidents happen or when illness strikes. Medical debt collection issues affect both insured and uninsured Americans. According to credit evaluators, medical debt collections are more likely to be in dispute, inconsistently reported, and of questionable value in predicting future payment performance because it is atypical and non-predictive. Nevertheless, medical debt that has been completely paid off or settled can significantly damage a consumer's credit score for years. As a result, consumers can be denied credit or pay higher interest rates when buying a home or obtaining a credit card. The issue of medical debt affects millions. In fact, according to the nonpartisan Commonwealth

Fund, medical bill problems or accrued medical debt affects roughly 72 million working-age adults in American. In 2007, 28 million working-age American adults were contacted by a collection agency for unpaid medical bills. (In Committee)

H.R. 3837 Strengthening and Updating Resources and Equipment Act

This bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for clarification on the use of funds relating to certain homeland security grants. (Passed by Committee)

H.R. 4099 Energy Efficiency Modernization Act

This bill would implement a market-based program to incentivize owners of federally-assisted housing to make clean energy retrofits. The legislation could create thousands of jobs and save the federal government millions in decreased energy costs. The bill has strong industry support and has a companion bill in the Senate. (In Committee)

H.AMDT. 43 to H.R. 1388

Provides for volunteers to supervise physical education classes at elementary and secondary schools; provides nutrition education to students and supervise, organize, and manage after school programs and provide services to elderly people through food deliveries, legal and medical services provided in the home and transportation. (Signed into law as part of P.L. 111-13)

H.AMDT.156 to H.R. 915

Would require the GAO to study, within one year of enactment, the effectiveness of FAA oversight activities related to preventing or mitigating the effects of dense continuous smoke in the cockpit of commercial aircraft. (Passed by House)

H.AMDT.439 to H.R. 322

Would give priority for grants to community colleges and states that focus on serving low-income students, veterans, and dislocated workers (Passed by House)

H.AMD.437 to H.R. 4173

Would make explicit that financing for the Systemic Dissolution Fund would come exclusively from assessments on industry without recourse to the American taxpayer. (Passed by House)

H.CON.RES.76

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding executive and employee bonuses paid by AIG and other companies assisted with taxpayer funds provided under the Troubled Assess Relief Program.

165 BILLS COSPONSORED

***You can find more detailed information about legislation at thomas.loc.gov

Investments in Central Ohio

I'm pleased to have secured over \$18 million dollars for projects in the 15th Congressional district. These investments will help private industry and local government. Notable projects include:

\$500,000 for the establishment of the **Ohio Advanced Manufacturing Center**, a project of the Edison Welding Institute aimed at supporting the local production of advanced energy.

\$500,000 for improvements to the **City of Worthington's** sewer systems, helping to provide a cleaner watershed in the area.

\$300,000 for the **City of Columbus's Police Property Crime Lab**. These funds will provide for the expanding property and evidence storage needs of the lab.

\$2 million for upgrades to the Joint Operations Center at the **Ohio National Guard's state headquarters**.

Over **\$1.5 million** for improvements to the **I-71/SR 665 interchange** in Grove City. This upgraded interchange will alleviate congestion in the area.

\$650,000 for building renovations to the **Columbus Early Learning Centers, the South Side Learning and Development Center and the Action for Children buildings**.

\$900,000 for the development of the **Cancer Survivorship Navigator Clinic at OSU**, which will improve access to follow up care for survivors and their families.

\$1.6 million for the **Homeland Security Initiative at Battelle Memorial Institute**. This funding will be used to increase security for our country's sea-borne trade routes.

\$1 million for **The Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research**. This funding will establish a national Center for Energy Storage Technology and Development.

You can see all of the projects for which I requested funding on my website at www.kilroy.house.gov

Local Impact of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama in February. By making more than \$750 billion available to create or save 3.5 million jobs, the ARRA is the most significant legislative action taken in response to our country's current economic turmoil, and I was proud to support it. The Recovery Act addresses the downturn in three ways:

- (1) By providing \$288 billion in tax cuts and benefits for working families and businesses
- (2) By providing an additional \$244 billion in federal funds for education and health care and entitlement programs (including monies made available to states to balance their budgets) and
- (1) By making \$275 billion available for federal contracts, grants and loans¹

Thus far, the 15th Congressional District has been awarded more than \$300 million in investment, including loans, grants and direct assistance from the Recovery Act:

Examples of key programs & projects:

- **The Ohio State University** has received over \$29 million in **National Science Research Foundation** grants, as well as \$7 million in **U.S. Department of Energy grants**.²
- School districts in Franklin, Madison and Union Counties have received over \$61 million in **Title I grants** and over \$48 million in **IDEA grants**.³
- The **City of Columbus** has received \$12.7 million for the **COPS Hiring Recovery Program Awards**, supporting 50 police officers for the city.⁴ This funding is in addition to the \$1.25 million direct assistance the city received to hire 25 police recruits that the police department had trained but would have otherwise been unable to hire.⁵
- The **City of Upper Arlington** issued \$7.4 million in **Build America bonds** to reconstruct Arlington Avenue and replace aging sewer and water lines, saving the city \$465,000 compared with a traditional municipal bond sale. The Build America bond program is financed by the ARRA.⁶

¹ "The Act." *Recovery.gov*. Web. <http://www.recovery.gov/About/Pages/The_Act.aspx>.

² "What's New" *Recovery.gov*. Web. <<http://recovery.ohio.gov>>

³ "| Accountability | Estimated Funding by County." *Ohio.gov | Recovery*. Web. <<http://recovery.ohio.gov/accountability/counties/>>.

⁴ COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) Awards" http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/chrp_report.pdf. Page 29.

⁵ Fuddy, John. "Stimulus saves jobs of 26 police recruits." *Dispatch Politics*. Columbus Dispatch, 26 Feb. 2009. Web.

⁶ Kemper, Kevin. "Build America stimulus program helps Upper Arlington save on debt." *Business First of Columbus*. American City Business Journals, 10 Aug. 2009. Web.

- **Univenture / Algaeventure Systems** of Marysville, in partnership with Rockwell Automation, Ohio University, and Case Western Reserve University received \$5.9 million from the **U.S. Department of Energy** for advanced research to develop algae-based biofuel production.⁷

For individuals

The ARRA makes available new federal tax benefits, including reductions in payroll taxes, increases in the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, benefits for retirees, parents, individuals saving for college, first-time homebuyers, car buyers, and others.

- **“Making Work Pay” Credit**—provides for a refundable tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for those filing joint returns.
- **Economic Recovery Payment**—a one-time payment of \$250 made to (1) retirees, disabled individuals and Supplemental Security Income recipients, (2) disabled veterans receiving benefits and (3) railroad retirement beneficiaries.
- **First Time Homebuyer Credit**—provides a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for first-time homebuyers (*note: this has been extended to April 30, 2010*)
- **Sales Tax Deduction for Vehicle Purchases**—provides a deduction for state and local sales and excise taxes paid on purchase of new vehicles up to \$49,500 of the purchase price.
- **Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit**—tax relief to families with three or more children and increases marriage penalty relief
- **Expanded Child Tax Credit**—increases eligibility for refundable child tax credit by lowering income threshold to \$3,000 (from \$8,500)
- **Education Tax Credit**—tax credit of up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition and related expenses.
- **Extension of Unemployment Compensation Benefits**
- **COBRA Health Insurance Assistance**—subsidizes 65% of eligible individuals’ COBRA health insurance for workers who lose their jobs
- **Home Weatherization and Insulation Assistance**—qualifying residents may apply for assistance to reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes
- **Making Home Affordable Program**—assists eligible homeowners to refinance or modify their mortgages to prevent foreclosure

For businesses

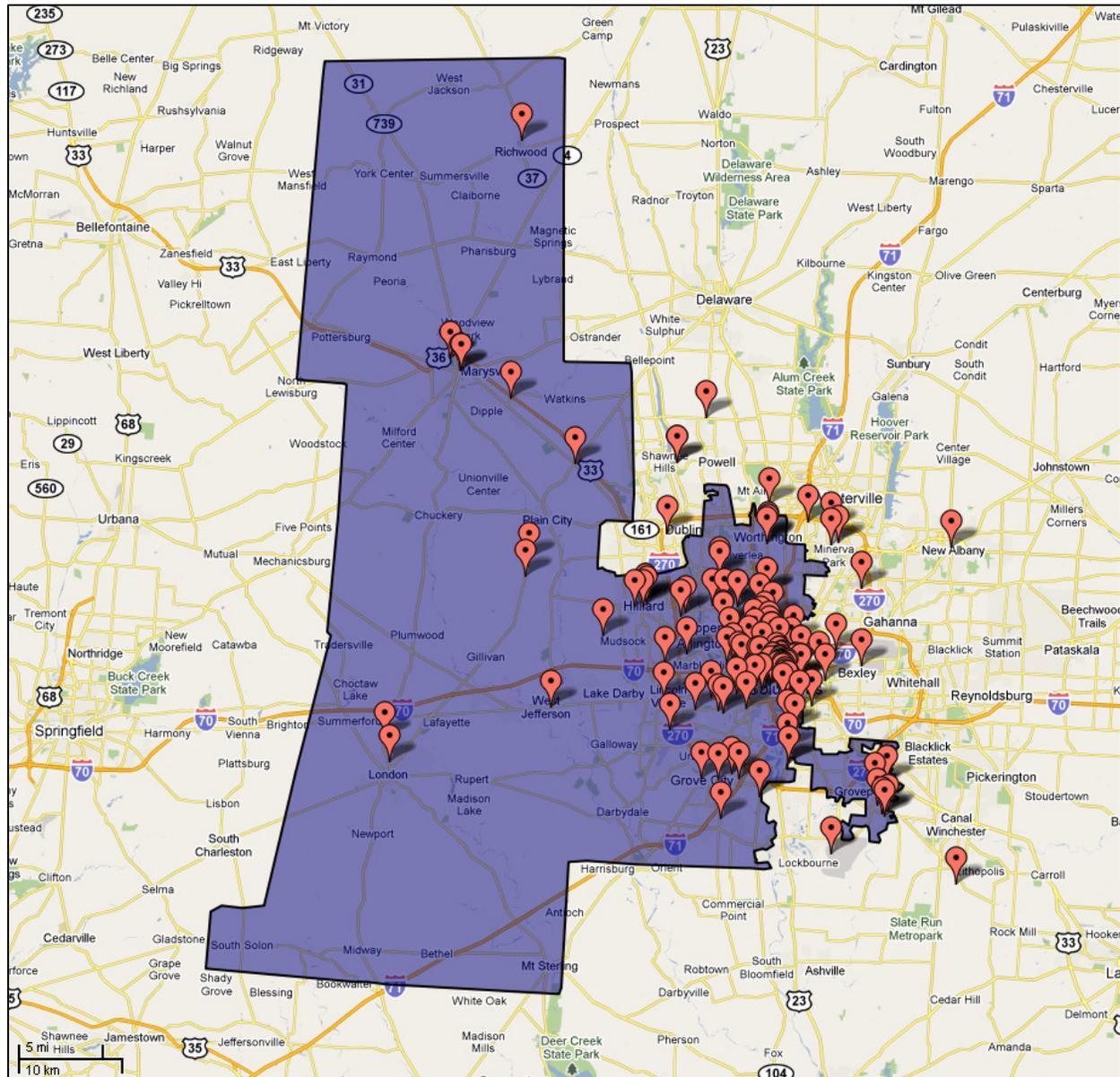
The Recovery Act also includes a combination of tax and spending provisions that are giving businesses a better opportunity to weather the economic downturn.

⁷ "Ohio Advanced Energy Research Projects Receive More Than \$17.3 Million from U.S. Department of Energy." *Ohio.gov | Recovery*. 27 Oct. 2009. Web. <<http://recovery.ohio.gov/news/2009/10/#102709>>.

- **Tax Provisions**
 - **Bonus depreciation**
 - **Buying back debt**
 - **Small business expensing**
 - **Small business loss carrybacks**
 - **Small business investment**
 - **Three percent government withholding**
 - **Jobs for unemployed veterans or youth**
- **Small Business Loans**
- **New Opportunities for Businesses**
 - **Spurring Renewable Energy**—Includes provisions that (1) extend production tax credit for electricity derived from renewable sources, (2) makes grants available for construction of renewable energy facilities, and (3) guarantees \$60 billion in loans for renewable energy power generation
 - **Making Homes, Schools and Buildings More Energy Efficient**—For those that rebuild and renovate homes, includes provisions to (1) improve energy efficiency of up to one million homes, (2) upgrade HUD-assisted housing and (3) save taxpayers over one billion dollars in energy costs through upgrades to federal buildings
 - **Innovation through Science & Technology**—Includes nearly \$40 billion in investments to spur growth in America’s IT network infrastructure and Health IT systems

District Wide Visits & Outreach

In my first year in office as a Member of Congress I knew that my top priority must be to stay in touch with my constituents. In 2009 I returned home to central Ohio nearly every weekend and attended over 150 events. While this is not a comprehensive list of every district meeting or event, I wanted to share with you an overview of the diversity of the 15th Congressional District and a sampling of the events and outreach I undertook during my first year as a U.S. Representative.



Franklin County

Greater Campus Area

The 15th Congressional District is home to one of the world's largest institutions of higher education, The Ohio State University. Whether in the field of high tech industry, medical research, or Buckeye Football, central Ohio is a leader in both undergraduate and graduate education. I visited The Ohio State University several times in 2009. In February, I toured the Center for Automotive Research and discussed federal research and development funding for green technology.



In March I toured the James Cancer Hospital and led discussions with leading medical researchers about health care reform. Before classes started in September, I toured the new Recreation and Physical Activity Center and spoke with school administrators about their pandemic flu readiness programs.

Ohio State also hosts a variety of fundraisers for local charities. In October, I took part in the Central Ohio Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night event and the Columbus Walk Now for Autism, both held on the university's campus.

- 01/31/09 University Association Pancake Breakfast, campus area
- 02/19/09 Tour Ohio State University Center for Automotive Research, Ohio State University
- 03/23/09 Tour James Cancer Center, Ohio State University
- 04/16/09 Tour Ohio State University Biomedical Tower, Ohio State University
- 08/25/09 BioOhio Annual Dinner, Blackwell Hotel
- 09/28/09 H1N1 Event, OSU Recreation & Physical Activity Center
- 10/03/09 Central Ohio Leukemia Society Light the Night, Fred Beekman Park
- 10/11/09 Walk Now for Autism, Schottenstein Center
- 12/12/09 Tour Ohio State University Byrd Polar Research Center, Ohio State University

Staff

- 01/15/09 National Guard Deployment, St. John's Arena
- 03/18/09 University Area Commission, Northwood & High Building (also on 5/20/09)
- 04/21/09 Academy Informational Seminar, Ohio State University
- 09/25/09 OSU Solar Decathlon send-off, Ohio State University

Clintonville

Nestled between the north end of The Ohio State University and Worthington, Clintonville is an unincorporated neighborhood made up of over 25,000 residents. The area boasts a variety of shops and restaurants, including Mozart's Café, a bakery well-known for its pastries and cakes. In January I joined them for their Open House to celebrate the 253rd birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and spoke with constituents as they sampled the local bakery's finest offerings.



I also hosted a Community Family Dinner in April at the Whetstone Community Center. A diverse and tight-knit neighborhood, I was able to sit down and speak with constituents about their hopes and trepidations. An informed and active community, Clintonville constituents are vigilant citizens who expect their representatives to stay responsive. I returned in November, after the health care debate in the House, to take questions from seniors at the Canterbury Apartments about the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

- 01/31/09 Mozart’s Cake Cutting and Open House, Mozart’s Café
- 04/19/09 Community Family Dinner, Whetstone Community Center
- 07/04/09 Clintonville Community Breakfast, Park of Roses
- 08/26/09 Sisters of Lavender, North Congregation Church of Christ
- 09/19/09 Columbus Resurfacing Event, East Hudson & East Avenue
- 11/12/09 Senior Roundtable, Canterbury Apartments

Staff

- 01/10/09 Ohio’s 22nd House District swearing in ceremony, Whetstone Park
- 02/05/09 Clintonville Area Commission meeting, Whetstone Library
- 02/13/09 Meeting with University Area Commission, Café Bella
- 02/18/09 Clintonville community meeting, Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resource Center (also attended 10/21/09)
- 02/19/09 Green Columbus Event, Studio 35
- 06/09/09 SPAN meeting on health care reform, Clintonville Panera

Hilliard

A growing suburb northwest of Columbus, Hilliard is a community of partnerships. In April I sat down with first responders from Franklin, Madison and Union counties at the Hilliard and Norwich Township’s Municipal Building. The discussion centered on coordination among groups to best serve the citizens of central Ohio.



In the fall I joined Hilliard city employees in saying goodbye to their longest serving police chief, Rodney Garnett, who retired in October. This fall also marked the opening of Hilliard’s third high school, Hilliard Bradley. I had the opportunity to recognize its volleyball team on its “Volley for the Cure” fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The Lady Jaguars raised \$2,000 for cancer research in Central Ohio to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

- 04/04/09 Hilliard Kiwanis Pancake Day, American Legion Hall
- 04/07/09 Ohio State Medical Association Roundtable, OSMA offices
- 04/07/09 Tour Mills James Productions, Mill Run
- 04/17/09 First Responders Roundtable, Norwich Township Building
- 07/04/09 Hilliard Fourth of July Parade, Franklin County Fairgrounds
- 10/02/09 Police Chief Garnett retirement employee open house, Norwich Township Building
- 10/05/09 Hilliard Bradley Volleyball Team Commendations, Hilliard Bradley High School
- 10/11/09 Hilliard Senior Citizens Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Phillis Ernst Senior Center

Staff

07/18/09 Booth at Franklin County Fair, Fairgrounds (every day during the fair)
08/21/09 United Way Combined Federal Giving Campaign meeting, March of Dimes
10/20/09 Hilliard redevelopment public meeting, Norwich Township Safety Services Building

Downtown

Home to Ohio's capitol and Franklin County government, downtown Columbus is a place many constituents and businesses of the 15th Congressional District call their home. I visited with corporate leaders from Fortune 500 companies Nationwide Insurance and American Electric Power in February and March. We discussed how to continue driving local economic activity, as both are substantial employers in Central Ohio.



In April, the Columbus Clippers hosted the first game in their brand new stadium, downtown at Huntington Park.

The stadium, named Ballpark of the Year by BaseballBallParks.com, is within walking distance of downtown offices, the Arena District, Short North, Victorian Village and Harrison West and provides a summertime anchor to the downtown area.

In September I sat down with government employees with the Department of Transportation to discuss issues revolving around stimulus funding. The projects our local authorities are pursuing with money made available through the Recovery Act have led to successful programs that are being replicated in cities across the country.

01/23/09 Human Rights Campaign Rally, Downtown Columbus
02/18/09 Press Conference, Statehouse
02/19/09 Meeting with Nationwide Insurance, Nationwide Plaza
03/02/09 Meeting with American Electric Power, AEP Plaza
03/28/09 Green Jobs Regional Workshop, Columbus State Community College
04/08/09 Columbus Chamber of Commerce Business Roundtable, Columbus Chamber
04/17/09 Ohio Pharmacists Association Luncheon, Convention Center
04/17/09 SEIU Regional Meeting, Downtown Columbus
04/18/09 Clippers Opening Game, Huntington Park
04/30/09 Capital Area Humane Society Gala, Huntington Park
05/16/09 Race for the Cure, Downtown Columbus
05/23/09 Bishop Marshall Banquet, Confluence Park
05/28/09 Ohio Commodores Luncheon, Athletic Club
05/29/09 Courthouse Event, Joseph P. Kinneary United States Courthouse
06/01/09 VISTA Volunteers Swearing In Ceremony, Riffe Center
06/08/09 MORPC Weatherization Event, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
06/13/09 Human Rights Campaign Dinner, Hyatt Regency
06/21/09 Pride Brunch, Westin
06/22/09 Nurses Roundtable, Columbus State Community College
07/20/09 Wellness Roundtable, Franklin County Government Center

09/11/09 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Columbus City Hall
 09/18/09 Transportation Roundtable, Vorys, Sater offices
 09/22/09 Federal Highway Administration Meeting, FHA Regional Building
 09/28/09 Ohio Credit Union League Chapter Dinner, Statehouse Atrium
 11/14/09 Ohio Environmental Council Gala, Columbus Atheneum
 11/24/09 Ohio PIRG Press Conference, City Kids Daycare
 12/12/09 Dinner and meeting with City of Columbus, Gordon Biersch Restaurant

Staff

02/10/09 African-American Legislator’s Day luncheon, Statehouse Atrium
 02/11/09 Children’s Hunger Alliance Luncheon, Columbus Convention Center
 03/19/09 City of Columbus Stimulus meeting, Columbus City Hall
 03/23/09 MORPC Stimulus meeting, MORPC
 03/27/09 Connect Ohio meeting, Riffe Center
 04/02/09 Area Agency on Aging legislative update, Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
 04/08/09 YWCA Women of Achievement luncheon, Columbus Convention Center
 04/13/09 Stimulus jobs meeting, Columbus State Community College
 04/24/09 Transportation meeting, Franklin County Government Center
 06/02/09 MORPC Climate Change Policy Group update on energy bill, MORPC
 06/03/09 EPA Stimulus announcement, Statehouse
 06/05/09 Arts Festival Kickoff, Columbus Museum of Art
 06/16/09 MORPC Stimulus meeting, MORPC
 06/16/09 Climate Change conference, AEP Plaza
 06/25/09 United Way Creating Community Change, Columbus Downtown High School
 07/09/09 Buckingham Commons groundbreaking, Buckingham Commons
 08/24/09 Postal Congressional Briefing, Main Post Office
 09/22/09 CARE Event, Columbus State Community College
 10/17/09 Veterans for American Power bus tour, Statehouse
 11/17/09 Affordable Housing Luncheon, Columbus Convention Center

Franklinton

The first settlement in Central Ohio, Franklinton predates Columbus by 15 years. Immediately west of downtown, Franklinton has suffered from underdevelopment in the past. However, today Franklinton, home to the Center of Science & Industry (COSI) and Franklin County Veterans Memorial, is an emerging neighborhood for redevelopment.

In October I joined the Franklinton Development Association for their Tour of Homes, which featured many properties whose purchase and renovation were made possible by the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. As new residents have capitalized on the New Homebuyer Tax Credit, segments of the area are beginning to revitalize.



06/15/09 Tour GFS Chemicals, McKinley Avenue Facility
 08/11/09 Lower Lights Christian Health Center Event, Lower Lights Health Center

08/27/09 Meeting with Councilwoman Eileen Paley, Florentine Restaurant
 09/02/09 Senior Tele-Town Hall, Lifecare Alliance
 09/04/09 ONN Healthcare Roundtable, COSI Studio
 09/19/09 India Festival, Veterans Memorial
 10/04/09 Franklinton Tour of Homes, Franklinton

Staff

02/06/09 AMVETS Post 300 meeting, Veterans Memorial
 02/10/09 Women’s Fund Annual Dinner, COSI
 02/10/09 Franklinton Area Commission, Franklinton Library (also attended 3/10/09, 10/13/09 & 12/07/09)
 02/20/09 Armed Forces Community Relations Council, Veterans Memorial
 10/20/09 Central Ohio Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Veterans Memorial
 11/17/09 Westside Health Advisory Committee, Franklinton

Tri-Village Area



A unique portion of our district is the Grandview Heights and Tri-Village area, a vibrant neighborhood my local Congressional office calls home. Located on Olentangy River Road between Third Avenue and Fifth Avenue, my office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. I held an open house in January and invited constituents from across the district to meet my staff. We invited small business representatives to join us again at the District Office in June.

In May I joined electrical workers at a Green Jobs Open House at the Electrical Trades Center on Goodale Boulevard. By bringing together a wide array of stakeholders, the open house attendees were shown a glimpse of how green technologies can spur an economic recovery here in central Ohio.

01/24/09 Constituent Open House, District Office
 02/17/09 HCAN Press Conference, OSU Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
 05/23/09 Grandview Heights Memorial Day Parade, Grandview Heights
 05/27/09 IBEW Green Jobs Open House, IBEW Electrical Trades Center
 06/02/09 Small Business Event, District Office
 08/09/09 Representative Ted Celeste Annual Barbecue, Celeste Residence
 08/25/09 Tour Columbus Prescription Pharmacy, Columbus Prescription Pharmacy
 08/28/09 Pelotonia Reception, Chemical Abstract Society Patio
 09/20/09 Family Missionary Baptist Church Services, Family M.B. Church
 10/04/09 Taste of Grandview Heights, McKinley Park

Staff

10/06/09 Fifth By Northwest Area Commission, Forty Plus of Central OH (also attended 11/03/09)

Grove City

A suburb southwest of Columbus, Grove City shares a bond with its residents. Many businesses and organizations call the city home, making the area one poised for continued growth. I saw some of this growth firsthand, as I attended the ribbon cutting for a Netflix distribution center. The new facility will deliver over 20 million DVD's to Netflix customers annually and has brought over 140 jobs to the area.



The Buckeye Ranch's residential facility is also located in Grove City. Over the Thanksgiving recess, I volunteered with the organization's Adopt-a-Family Holiday program and delivered items from a child's wish list. While visiting, I toured the Ranch and sat down with their executive director and learned about their capital improvement plans.

- 04/04/09 Grove City Lions Club Pancake Day, Grove City United Methodist Church
- 05/12/09 Netflix Ribbon Cutting, Netflix
- 05/26/09 Tour Grove City Infrastructure Projects, Grove City
- 08/30/09 Ironworkers Local 172 Picnic, Heimat Haus
- 11/24/09 Visit & tour of Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Mid-Ohio Food Bank
- 11/25/09 Visit & tour of Buckeye Ranch, The Buckeye Ranch

Staff

- 02/18/09 Southwest Area Commission, New Horizon's Methodist Church (also attended 03/18/09)
- 05/07/09 Grove City DAV Forget Me Not Sale, Grove City
- 06/07/09 Deployment ceremony, Grove City High School

Groveport

In the southeastern portion of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, the Village of Groveport is located just north of Rickenbacker International Airport, and is home to many National Guard service members. In September I joined friends and families of the airmen of the 121st Air Refueling Wing for their Hometown Heroes Salute. I had the opportunity to individually recognize each of the 600 service members at the event as part of a nationwide effort to recognize our citizen service members.



I also hosted Energy Secretary Steven Chu for a Recovery Act announcement at American Electric Power's Dolan Technology Center in Groveport. \$75 million has been set aside for Smart Grid technology to improve efficiency and lower costs for Ohio AEP customers. Additionally, this Smart Grid technology is expected to bring over 500 jobs. I wrote a letter of support for this project and am pleased that vital Recovery dollars will be spent to aid Ohioans.

- 06/15/09 National Guard Deployment, Groveport Madison High School

07/04/09 Groveport Fourth of July Parade, Glendening Elementary School
 08/05/09 Medical Debt Event, Groveport Senior Center
 08/29/09 Plumbers & Pipefitters Picnic, Jackson Lake Park
 09/27/09 Hometown Heroes Salute, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker Air Force Base
 10/10/09 Groveport Apple Butter Day, Heritage Park
 11/11/09 Veterans Day Ceremony, Groveport Veterans Park
 11/24/09 Recovery Announcement with Secretary Chu, Dolan Technology Center

Staff

05/20/09 Kaplan College Ceremony, Kaplan College Columbus Campus

Near North

The Near North is comprised of the several neighborhoods just north of downtown, including the Short North, Italian Village, Victorian Village and Harrison West. In January I held an economic roundtable at the Northside Library to discuss the year’s economic outlook and how to create jobs, an issue first on the minds of the many young professionals and Ohio State graduate students residing in the Near North.



As the weather warmed in April, the discussion moved to climate change at the Earth Day Festival held at Goodale Park. I spoke to residents from across Franklin County about energy conservation and the opportunities for green technologies in central Ohio. Goodale Park also hosts its Community Festival in June. A weekend where members of the community come together to create an atmosphere filled with art , food and music, Comfest has been an annual event since 1972.

01/27/09 Economic Roundtable, Northside Library
 04/19/09 Earth Day Festival, Goodale Park
 05/23/09 Visit with Ohio Proud vendors at North Market, Vine & Spruce
 06/20/09 Pride Parade, High Street to Goodale Park
 06/26/09 Community Fest, Goodale Park
 08/07/09 Columbus Historical Society Event, Peter Sells Circus House

Staff

02/10/09 Stonewall Roundtable Meeting, Stonewall Center
 03/05/09 Night of Equality, Union Bar
 03/13/09 Results Meeting, Global Gallery
 03/18/09 University Area Commission meeting, Northwood High Building
 03/24/09 Soybean Council Reception , Battelle Labs
 04/01/09 Friends of Goodale Park, Goodale Park
 04/15/09 Harrison West Civic Association meeting, Harrison West Community Center
 07/28/09 RePower America office opening, First Avenue office

North, East, & Northwest Columbus

In the beginning of May, I toured the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic. Newly opened in November of 2008, the clinic serves veterans in Central Ohio, providing them with a high quality care that is affordable.

I also met with constituent groups that represent members region-wide. In March I attended an Arab Americans of Central Ohio meeting in Dublin, and in May I took in the Asian Festival at Franklin Park. During the fall, I accepted an invitation from the Central Ohio Bengali Cultural Association to hear a musical tribute to the great Bollywood playback singer Kumar Kishore. The event brought together Indian-Americans from across Central Ohio to hear a marvelous performance.

The next day I presented Tiedstone Missionary Baptist Church a commendation at a luncheon celebrating its 43rd anniversary and met constituents from the Near East side.

02/17/09	Call and Post Roundtable, Savoy
03/06/09	Northland Community Dinner, Forest Hills
04/15/09	Tour of American Structure Point, American Structure Point
04/18/09	MS Walk, Columbus Zoo
05/01/09	Tour Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic, Wylie Clinic
05/01/09	Meeting at Ohio Dominican College
05/12/09	VISN Meeting, Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic
05/12/09	Northland Business Reception, National College Campus
05/15/09	Armed Forces Luncheon, Villa Milona Party Center
05/24/09	Asian Festival, Franklin Park Conservatory
06/21/09	Zoofari 2009, Columbus Zoo
08/27/09	Ohio Bankers League Meeting, Easton
09/01/09	Healthcare Reform Bus Tour, Ohio State Fairgrounds
09/13/09	Tiedstone Missionary Baptist Church Services, Tiedstone M.B. Church
09/22/09	Tour COTA Paratransit Services, COTA Paratransit Facility
10/10/09	Tiedstone M.B. Church 43 rd anniversary luncheon, Ross Family & Life Center

Staff

02/26/09	State of the City Address, East High School
03/03/09	Meeting with Director of Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center
03/19/09	ESOP State Convention, Bridgewater Conference Center, Powell
03/25/09	Lockheed Martin ribbon cutting, Lockheed Martin Distribution Center
03/26/09	Recovery press conference, Nationwide Children's Hospital
04/03/09	Tour of OSU Airport, Ohio State University Airport
04/21/09	Columbus Foundation Stimulus meeting, Columbus Foundation
05/20/09	Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, King Arts Complex
05/29/09	Bob Hope Commemorative Stamp Unveiling, State of Ohio Adjutant General's office
06/04/09	Green Energy Ohio meeting, Governor's Mansion
06/06/09	Healthcare House Party, Dublin
06/06/09	D-Day Commemoration, Le Chatelaine, Wylie Clinic
06/07/09	Defense Supply Center Columbus Change of Command Ceremony, DSCC
06/30/09	Tour Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Clinic, Wylie Clinic
09/15/09	3C Rail Public Hearing, King Arts Complex
09/23/09	Fish & Wildlife Service Congressional coordination meeting, Franklin Park

- 10/16/09 Olentangy Watershed forum, Powell
- 10/22/09 North Side Health Advisory Committee, Columbus Police Strategic Response Center
- 10/27/09 Ohio State University Airport noise study meeting, Ohio State University Airport
- 10/27/09 Columbus Housing Partnership dinner, Lincoln Theatre
- 11/06/09 US Route 33 & Post Road project groundbreaking, Dublin
- 11/13/09 Military Officers Club of Central Ohio, Reynoldsburg

South Columbus

The south side of Columbus includes a variety of neighborhoods, each with a distinct flavor. Bisected by State Route 104, the area is split into two areas: the Near South and the Far South. The Near South includes German Village, the Brewery District, Merion Village, Hungarian Village, Lincoln Park and the Reeb-Hosack area. The Far South includes the Marion-Franklin Area, Scioto Southland Community and Alum Crest.

An area with a history of giving back to the larger community, I worked with the local Salvation Army to co-sponsor a Community Outreach Day held in July, and in November I toured the South Side Learning & Discovery Center and visited with a classroom of preschoolers. We broke out the crayons and glue, making Christmas cards to send to our servicemen and women from the 585th Military Police Battalion from Marysville who are currently stationed in Iraq.



- 04/06/09 Community Development for All People, Church for All People
- 06/01/09 Healthcare Press Event with Representative Steny Hoyer, Katzinger's
- 06/14/09 Shamrock Club Flag Day event, Shamrock Club
- 07/11/09 Southside Community Outreach Day, Salvation Army
- 8/08/09 Labor Retirees Family Picnic, American Legion Southway Post 144
- 11/30/09 Christmas Cards for Troops, South Side Learning & Discovery Center

Staff

- 02/02/09 German Village Society, Meeting Haus
- 02/04/09 Merion Village Association meeting, Merion Village Association's office (also attended 10/07/09 & 11/04/09)
- 02/08/09 South Side Settlement House executive director retires, South Side Settlement House
- 02/11/09 Green Columbus meeting, Cup O Joe
- 02/16/09 Tour of South Side Learning and Development Center, South Side Learning and Development Center
- 03/12/09 Council of South Side Organizations, Shamrock Club
- 03/20/09 Armed Forces Community Relations Council, Maennerchor Restaurant
- 03/24/09 South Side Area Commission, Barack Recreation Center
- 04/07/09 EPA Biogas facility meeting, South High Library
- 08/16/09 American Legion Southway Post 144 Picnic, American Legion Post 144
- 08/25/09 South Side Area Commission, South High School (also attended 10/27/09)
- 10/01/09 Far South Side Area Commission, Marion Franklin Recreation Center

10/14/09 Columbus City Schools State of the District, South High School
 10/15/09 South Side Health Advisory Committee, Church for All People
 12/07/09 Parsons Avenue Merchants Association reception, Church for All People

Upper Arlington

A primarily residential community, Upper Arlington is first-ring suburb of Columbus northwest of downtown. In June I joined an inspired crowd at Hastings Middle School for the community's Relay for Life. The soft glow of lanterns circled the track as members of the community arrived in droves to help raise awareness for cancer and funds for research and treatment. As a Co-Chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I was buoyed by the spirit of these participants and volunteers, and I will continue to fight for anti-Cancer causes in Washington.

In August I enjoyed the Taste of Upper Arlington event, sampling dishes from the many restaurants at this area's business exposition and neighborhood festival. I mingled with constituents at Upper Arlington's Northam Park, a wonderful setting for this community event.

04/04/09 Green Day Upper Arlington, Tremont Center
 04/17/09 Meeting Upper Arlington Leadership, Municipal Building
 05/17/09 Upper Arlington Plaque Dedication, Municipal Building
 05/29/09 Relay for Life, Jones Middle School
 08/11/09 Taste of Upper Arlington, Northam Park
 09/04/09 National Guard Deployment, Hastings Middle School
 11/05/09 Results Fundraiser, Upper Arlington
 11/15/09 Healthcare House Party, Girves' Residence
 12/12/09 Tour Edison Welding Institute, EWI Upper Arlington

Staff

06/06/09 Healthcare House Party, Upper Arlington
 08/05/09 Northwest Civic Association, Meadow Park Church of God
 09/23/09 Peace Corps Event at Upper Arlington Volunteer Fair, Upper Arlington City Hall
 10/07/09 Clean Energy Forum, Hastings Middle School
 10/13/09 Northwest Civic Association meeting, Centennial High School

West Columbus

As with many neighborhoods across our district and our nation, the economic downturn has particularly



affected the West Side of Columbus. However, residents are taking action. In February I attended a Columbus Saves event, where experts stressed financial awareness and encouraged attendees to save regularly. Throughout the spring and summer, I attended tours of a variety of businesses on the West Side, with stops at the Citigroup facility, Roxanne Labs, Doctors Hospital and the UPS distribution center. Sizing up their operations, I was able to acquire a sense of ways that lawmakers can help foster growth in the private sector while continuing to protect consumers.

In November I took part in a reviving tradition, the Uptown on Hilltop Parade. After its dissolution over a decade ago, the parade returned for its second year in a row. Judging by the enthusiasm of participants and parade goers, I anticipate this autumn institution has returned to the West Side.

- 02/16/09 HAND - Columbus Saves Event, Sullivant Ave
- 04/08/09 Tour Citigroup facility, Bolton Road
- 05/27/09 Tour Roxanne Labs, Wilson Road
- 05/27/09 Home Tax Credit Event, West Columbus
- 07/01/09 Tour Doctors Hospital, Doctors Hospital facility
- 08/04/09 National Night Out, Hilltop
- 08/08/09 Westgate Garden Party, Hilltop
- 08/26/09 Tour UPS Hub, UPS Distribution Center
- 11/01/09 Uptown Hilltop Parade, Broad Street

Staff

- 02/03/09 Hilltop Area Commission meeting, Hilltop Senior Village (also attended 07/07/09)
- 02/12/09 Friends of Hilltop meeting, Hilltop Library
- 06/27/09 Hilltop Bean Dinner, Westgate Park
- 08/20/09 Hilltop Kiwanis meeting, Kiwanis Club of Hilltop
- 10/13/09 Hilltop Land Use meeting, Haydocy Chevrolet
- 10/27/09 Westgate Neighbors Meeting, Buckeye Ranch

Worthington

Worthington is a suburb of north Columbus situated along High Street just north of Clintonville. Each May Worthington hosts a Memorial Day Parade to honor veterans and serving members of the United States Armed Forces. The event kicks off summer in Central Ohio, and I was proud to join their community in paying tribute to our nation’s service members.



Walking through old downtown Worthington, I am reminded about what a wonderful venue it is for so many community events in Worthington. Along with the Memorial Day Parade, I took part in the Old Worthington

Festival, enjoying the well-kept shops along High Street and the company of my fellow constituents and residents of Worthington.

January Opening North Worthington Pet Clinic, Lazelle Road
04/16/09 Worthington Libraries Annual Breakfast, Old Worthington Library
04/16/09 Worthington Women's Business Network, Jessing Center
05/25/09 Worthington Memorial Day Parade, Old Worthington
09/19/09 Old Worthington Festival, Old Worthington

Staff

02/12/09 Sustainable Worthington, Worthington Community Center (also attended 05/05/09)
02/28/09 Worthington Farmer's Market, Old Worthington
05/14/09 Council on Rural Housing Development Ohio, Worthington Hills Country Club
06/06/09 Health care House Party, Worthington

Madison County



Madison County, located directly west of Franklin County, consists mostly of farmland with one central city and several villages. Corn and soybeans are the primary crops grown in Madison County. The Big Darby National Scenic River flows along the eastern border of Madison County.

Early this year, I had the privilege of meeting Teacher of the Year award recipient, Jim Scott, an instructor at Tolles Career and Technical Center in Plain City. I also toured the Madison County Humane Society outside London and stopped at the legendary Ann & Tonys Restaurant in West Jefferson.

During the summer, I hosted a roundtable in Plain City to hear from farmers and residents on the topic of health care in rural areas and spent a leisurely afternoon at the Madison County Fair.

02/20/09 Visited Tolles Career and Technical Center, Plain City
02/20/09 Visited Madison County Humane Society, London
02/20/09 Dinner Ann & Tony's, West Jefferson
07/02/09 Rural Roundtable, Dutch Kitchen
07/12/09 County Fair, London

Staff

03/26/09 Madison County Chamber Dinner, Mt. Sterling Community Center
04/24/09 Transportation meeting, Plain City Fire Department
07/11/09 Booth at Madison County Fair, Fairgrounds (every day during the fair)
11/12/09 London 4-H Banquet, London County Fairgrounds

Union County

Union County, located northwest of Franklin County and directly north of Madison County, is also heavily agricultural with one large metropolitan area and multiple villages. Known for its scenic beauty, Union County is home to several covered bridges.

Honda of America operates a plant in the northeastern part of the county; the multinational Scott's Company, which I toured this summer, is headquartered on the eastern edge of Marysville.

I attended a North Union basketball game and enjoyed dinner with constituents at the Old Town Inn and Benny's Pizza in Marysville. The Chamber of Commerce dinner gave me the chance to visit with local officials and business owners.

01/24/09	North Union High School Basketball Game, Richwood
01/31/09	Dinner at the Old Town Inn, Marysville
03/07/09	Union County Chamber Dinner, Dublin
05/23/09	Benny's Pizza, Marysville
08/10/09	Tour Scott's Miracle Gro, Marysville
08/13/09	Deployment Ceremony, Marysville

Staff

01/31/09	North Union High School dedication, North Union High School
02/26/09	Meeting with Mayor of Marysville, City Council, Marysville City Hall
04/02/09	Union County Trustees Meeting, Liberty Township Hall
04/06/09	Northwest Neighborhood Alliance meeting, York Center (also 05/18/09 & 06/29/09)
04/24/09	Tour of Union County bridges, north and west of Plain City
06/06/09	Scott's Store grand opening, Scott's Miracle Gro Company Store
07/26/09	Booth at Madison County Fair, Fairgrounds (every day during the fair)
09/19/09	Old Timers Festival, Raymond
09/24/09	Union County Chamber Legislative Breakfast, County Services Building
12/01/09	WRDA Meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers, Union County Engineer's office

Constituent Correspondence

I encourage constituents to contact my office with their opinions, questions and requests for assistance. In 2009, my offices heard from over 67,000 constituents.

Contact to my office was through the following methods:

47,459 emails through my website, www.kilroy.house.gov

9,370 letters through the postal service

7,440 calls to the office

3,446 faxed correspondence

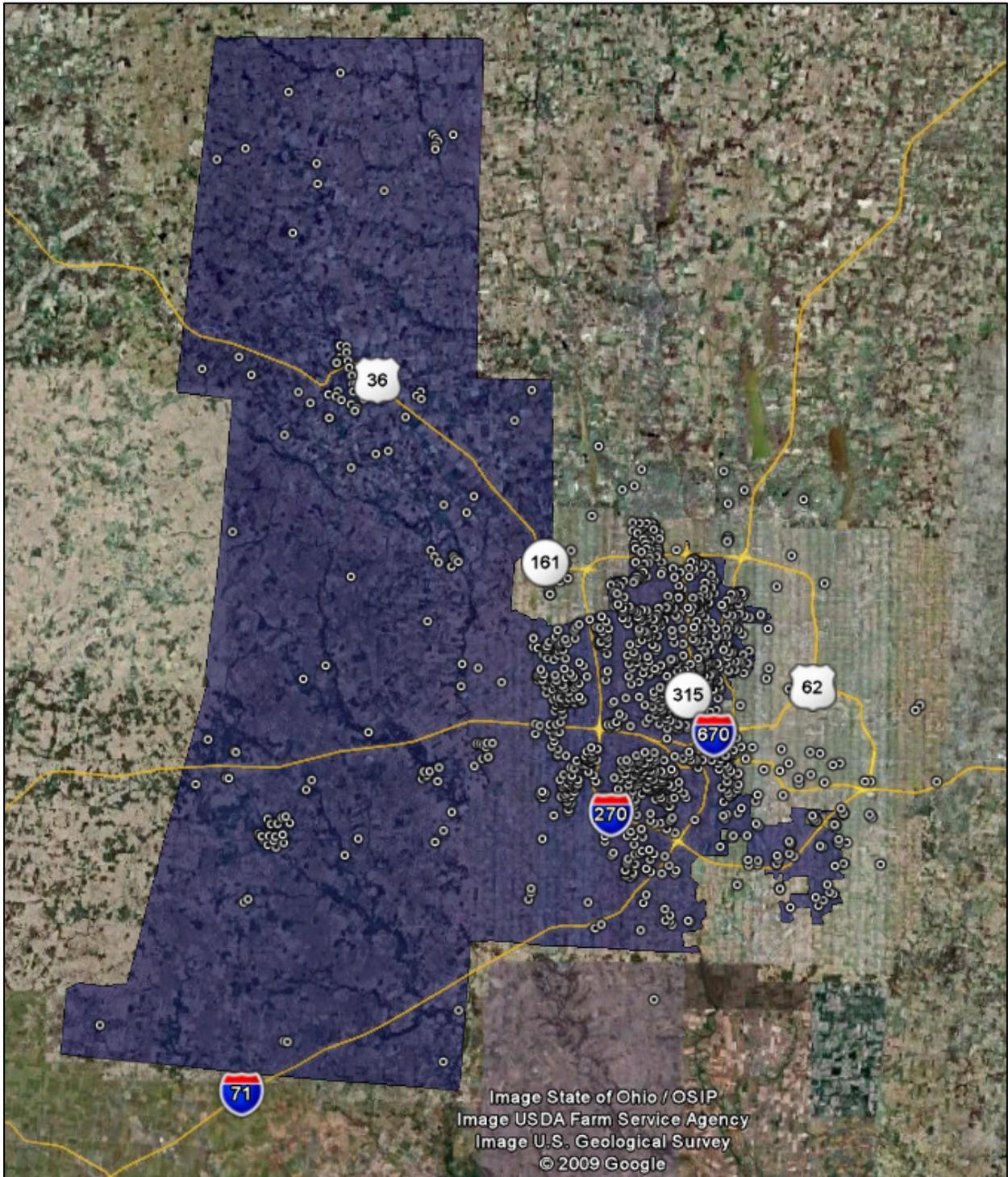
Constituent Casework

In 2009, my office assisted with 1093 constituent services cases. A breakdown of the major areas of casework follows.

Quick Overview by the Numbers

Social Security	223 Cases
Military/Veterans	221 Cases
Financial	190 Cases
Local/State Government	117 Cases
Health Care	111 Cases
Immigration	60 Cases
Passports	53 Cases
IRS	32 Cases
Grants	28 Cases
Department of Labor	24 Cases
Student Loans	15 Cases
Housing	14 Cases
Postal Issues	5 Cases

Map of Constituent Cases throughout the District



Financial: 116 of 190 cases completed

- *Mortgage Modification*
- *Banking Issues*
- *Credit Card Issues*
- *Small Business Administration Loan Issues*

Example: A woman contacted my office this summer because she was about to lose her home to foreclosure despite the fact that she was in the modification process under the Making Home Affordable program. My staff contacted the mortgage servicer who verified she had applied and was eligible for modification then stopped the sheriff's sale. Her loan was successfully modified and she was able to keep her home of twelve years.

Grants: 24 of 28 cases completed

- *Research on Federal Grant Opportunities*
- *Letters of Support*

Example: The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act provided several opportunities for federal funding. My office created a guide to the many agencies accepting grant applications and sent out notifications of deadlines. My staff worked with constituents and municipalities to help them navigate the system and apply for these funds.

Social Security: 85 of 223 cases completed

- *Disability Adjudication*
- *Overpayment/Underpayment Matters*
- *Lost and Delayed Payments*
- *WEP/GPO benefit calculations*
- *Replacement SSN cards*

Example: A gentleman contacted my office this summer because he had not received his Social Security retroactive disability benefit. He had suffered a heart attack and stroke and as a result applied for and was awarded disability benefits in the spring. His monthly Social Security disability benefits had started but he was still due \$8,104.75 in retroactive pay. Since he is not eligible for Medicare coverage until the first of the year he desperately needed the retroactive pay to cover medical expenses.

My office contacted the Inquiry and Expediting staff at the Social Security Payment Center in Chicago, IL. We were informed the Payment Center had received his case in the spring but the retroactive benefit had not been issued.

My staff explained the gentleman's situation and urged an expedited release of his retroactive benefit. Two days later we received a call from the Payment Center informing us the constituent's benefit was issued and would be directly deposited in his account within the next 5 business days.

Health Care: 80 of 111 cases completed

- *Medicare Problems*
- *Health Related Concerns*

Example: A constituent who has End Stage Renal Disease recently contacted my office requesting assistance in enrolling in Medicare Part B. As an ESRD patient he is eligible for Medicare coverage which covers his hemodialysis treatments. He submitted his open enrollment application form to Social Security but had not heard anything from SSA or received his card from Medicare.

My district office contacted his local SSA office and requested they look into the matter. SSA informed us they had not received his open enrollment form. We obtained a copy of his open enrollment application and faxed it to the local SSA office. Social Security forwarded the application to The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. His Medicare card was mailed out the next day.

Dept. of Labor: 17 of 24 cases completed

- *Answering Questions regarding COBRA coverage*
- *Issues concerning federal employees*
- *Other labor issues*

Housing: 11 of 14 cases completed

- *Problems with Section 8 vouchers/HUD*
- *Problems with Property management*

Example: My office heard last year from a woman who was having problems with her Section 8 voucher contract. She was in danger of losing her voucher because she refused to sign the contract due to a breach in communication between her, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, HUD, and her property manager. Working with the different parties, our office was able to solve this communication problem and see that this woman had a contract presented to her that she felt comfortable in signing. In the end, she signed her contract, kept her voucher, and the housing contract with the owner was executed.

Postal Issues: 4 of 5 cases completed

Example: Last year, my office was contacted by a gentleman who was having difficulty receiving his mail after a dispute with a mail carrier. We worked with the post office and the gentleman to reach an accord that smoothed out the misunderstanding. The dispute resolved, the gentleman is again able to receive mail at his address.

Student Loans: 14 of 15 cases completed

- *Help with repayment problems*
- *Help with resolving loan allocation problems*
- *Help with solving discrepancies over payment amount of loan*

Example: A young lady had contacted our office concerning the allocation of her AmeriCorps Scholarship award towards her US direct Loan. Due to miscommunication between the Department of Education and AmeriCorps, her scholarship had not been applied to her student loan which resulted in added interest and penalties on her loan balance. Working with the two agencies, our office was able to locate her scholarship award, have it applied to her loan, and erase the penalties and added interest accrued during this mishap.

Passports: 48 of 53 cases completed

- *Expediting Passports*
- *Status checks on applications*
- *Help with resolving problems concerning applications/process*

Example: During the summer of last year, a gentleman had contacted our office concerning his passport application. In trying to obtain a passport to go on his honeymoon, he found out that his application had been frozen by the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency. His application was stalled due to owed child support payments from a previous relationship. He claimed he had resolved this issue by the time that his application had been submitted. For some reason, this information had not reached the National Passport Center.

He submitted the court records and the documentation from Franklin County Support Enforcement Agency to our office proving that he was correct. Working with the child support agency and the National Passport Center, our office was able to rectify this discrepancy. The constituent received his passport and was able to go on his honeymoon.

IRS: 20 of 32 cases completed

Example: During the tax season, a constituent contacted our office concerning his problems with the IRS. His identity had been stolen and this was preventing him from receiving any tax refunds or stimulus dollars from the IRS. Working with the tax advocate, our office was able to solve his identity theft problem along with obtaining his tax returns for him.

Immigration: 41 of 60 cases completed

- *Immigrant/Non-Immigrant Visas*
- *Naturalization*
- *Permanent Residency*

Example: During the spring time, a young college student called our office trying to obtain some help in getting his parents a visit visa for his June 2009 graduation from The Ohio State University. The gentleman, who is here on a student visa from Pakistan, had previously attempted to get a visit visa for his parents to no avail. He and his parents had applied for another visa at the U.S. embassy in Pakistan, but were worried that it would again get denied and they would not be able to attend his graduation. Our office petitioned to the embassy with a letter of support and a visa was issued to his parents. They were able to attend their son's graduation and his family was very thankful for the help provided.

Military/Veterans: 144 of 221 cases completed

- *Veterans Health and Benefits*
- *Active Duty and Reservist Concerns*
- *Obtaining Medals and Military Records*

Example: A cadet from the Ohio State University contacted my office because he was having difficulty with his educational benefits. The constituent, after serving in the Ohio Army National Guard as an enlisted soldier, decided he wanted to become an officer. After weighing available options, he decided it best to contract under the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship program so that he would be able to utilize the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP), Ohio National Guard Scholarship, GRFD housing subsidy, and an ROTC stipend.

During the cadet contracting process the Department of Defense erroneously indicated that the constituent was electing to contract by utilizing the Dedicated Guard Scholarship. Consequently, the Department of Veterans Affairs notified the constituent that he was ineligible for the REAP program with a backdate of January 2008. This created a debt of \$11,000.

On the recommendation of the constituent's company commander, the constituent called our office seeking assistance. After discussing this case with our Congressional liaisons at both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, we were able to determine the root of the problem and quickly rectify the situation. Within a short period of time, my office received a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs which mentioned that the retroactive payment was suspended and that the constituent's full benefits would be restored.

Local Issues/Miscellaneous: 103 of 117 cases completed

- *Connecting Constituents with Local Agencies and Services*
- *Answering Questions Regarding State/local Government*
- *Miscellaneous*

Miscellaneous District Office Services

Tour Requests

Our District Office has requested tours for approximately 100 people. My staff conducts tours of the Capitol, by request, at 2:00 p.m. However, tour requests are also available for other sites including (but not limited to):

- *United States Capitol (including gallery passes)*
- *The White House*
- *The Pentagon*
- *The Bureau of Printing & Engraving*

Flag Requests

My District Office has sent in 33 requests for flags.

Example: One elderly woman has requisitioned 11 flags over the past year to commemorate the 80th birthdays of various classmates. On one occasion, when she requested three flags but had not signed her check, my staff was able to follow up with the woman and ensure her order was taken care of correctly and promptly. She was very appreciative of our gesture and extra efforts.

Booklet Requests

My District Office has received over 50 requests for different booklets

Example: While staffing our booth at a local fair, a teacher requested 24 copies of a booklet named “Our Flag,” which tells the history of the Stars and Stripes, as well as other facts about flags and emblems in America. We sent the booklets to her classroom in time for school to start again in the fall.

Another example involved a local church requesting something to present to community servants and service members they were honoring at their annual July 4th service. We provided them with both “Our Flag” booklets and copies of The Constitution to present to those honorees.

Publications

In an effort to make federal program information more accessible to our constituents, the District office has produced a number of publications and informational resources:

- *Constituent Services Brochure*
- *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Booklet*
- *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Booklet for Individuals*
- *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Booklet for Small Businesses*
- *Getting the Word Out on the Recovery Act brochure*
- *Job Resource Guide*
- *Mortgage Modification Brochure*
- *Small Business ARC Loans Brochure*
- *Affordable Healthcare for America information brochure*